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March

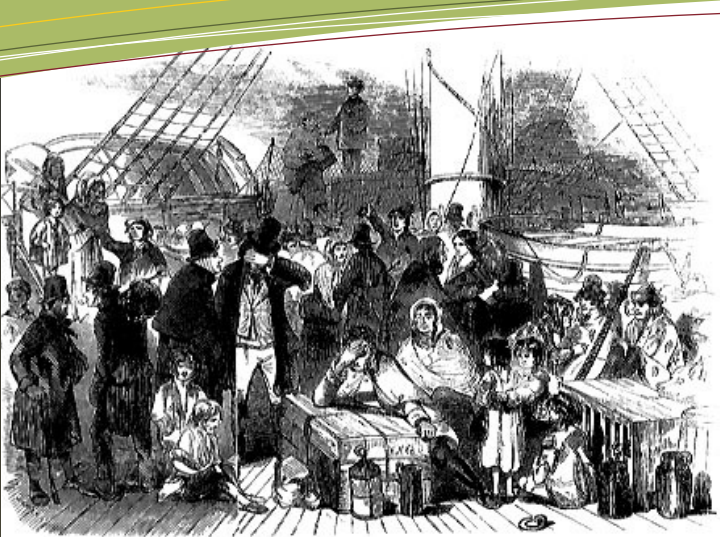
- Greek-American Heritage Month
- Irish-American Heritage Month
- Spiritual Wellness Month
- 1 - St. David's Day (Welsh)
- 2 - Mothering Sunday (England)
- Dr. Seuss Day
- 4 - World Day of Prayer
- 5-8 - Brazil, Carnival
- 7 - Lent begins (Orthodox Christians)
- 8 - Mardi Gras (United States)
- 9 - Ash Wednesday (Protestant, Ro-
- man Catholic)
- 17 - St. Patrick's Day (Ireland, United
- States)
- 21 - Naw Ruz (Baha'i, Persia)
- 25 - Feast of Annunciation
- (Christian)
- 30 - Purim (Jewish)



AWARDS

Good Luck to Lt Col Allen E. Kirksey and SMSgt Jacinta Figueroa . They were both nominated for the Excellence in Diversity Award - Individual category, for their excellent contributions to the Arizona National Guard and their communities. Their Professional accomplishment and achievement beyond the standard duties and requirements of their position has been demonstrated with notable achievements.

DOD has instructed no more award nominations until further notice 'due to budget constraints'. We will send updates as we receive them. If you have any questions please contact our office at 602-629-4811 or 602-629-4836.



Irish Americans

At the beginning of the 19th century the dominant industry of Ireland was agriculture. Large areas of this land was under the control of landowners living in England. Much of this land was rented to small farmers who, because of a lack of capital, farmed with antiquated implements and used backward methods.

The average wage for farm laborers in Ireland was eight pence a day. This was only a fifth of what could be obtained in the united States and those without land began to seriously consider immigrating to the New World.

In 1816 around 6,000 Irish people sailed for America. Within two years this figure had doubled. Early arrivals were recruited to build canals. In 1818 over 3,000 Irish laborers were employed on the Erie Canal. By 1826 around 5000 were working on four separate canal projects. One journalist commented: 'There are several kinds of power working at the fabric of the republic-water-power, steam-power and Irish-power. The last works hardest of all.'

In October 1845 a serious blight began among the Irish potatoes, ruining about three-quarters of the country's crop. This was a disaster as over four million people in Ireland depended on the potato as their chief food. The blight returned in 1846 and over the next year an estimated 350,000 people died of starvation and an outbreak of typhus that ravaged a weakened population. Despite good potato crops over the next four years, people continued to die and in 1851 the Census Commissioners estimated that nearly a million people had died during the Irish Famine. The British administration and absentee landlords were blamed for this catastrophe by the Irish people.

The Irish Famine stimulated a desire to emigrate. The figures for this period show a dramatic increase in Irish people arriving in the United States: 92,484 in 1846, 196,224 in 1847, 173,744 in 1848, 204,771 in 1849, and 206,041 in 1850. by the end of 1854 nearly two million people-about a quarter of the population-had emigrated to the United States in ten years.

A census carried out in 1850 revealed that there were 961,719 people in the United States that had been born in Ireland. At this time they mainly lived in New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Illinois, Ohio and New Jersey.

Irish~American Heritage Month

“If you're lucky enough to be Irish, then you're lucky enough.”

The Irish Emigrant Society tried to persuade immigrants to move to the interior but the vast majority were poverty-stricken and had no money for transportation to buy land. They therefore tended to settle close to the port where they disembarked.

Thousands of Irish laborers worked on building the railroads in the United States. Some were able to save enough money to buy land and establish themselves as farmers along the routes they had helped to develop. This was especially true of Illinois and by 1860 there were 87,000 Irish people living in this state.

Other Irish immigrants became coalminers in Pennsylvania. Working conditions in the mines were appalling with no safety requirements, no official inspections and no proper ventilation. When workers were victimized for trade union activity, they formed a secret society called the Molly Maguires. Named after an anti-landlord organization in Ireland, the group attempted to intimidate mine-owners and their supporters. The group was not broken-up until 1875 when James McParland, a Pinkerton detective and Irish immigrant, infiltrated the organization and his evidence resulted in the execution of twenty of its members.

The Irish tended to support the Democratic Party rather than the Republican Party. They had little sympathy for slaves as they feared that if they were given their freedom they would move north and threaten the jobs being done by Irish immigrants. One leading Irish-American politician, John Mitchel, wrote in his newspaper, The Citizen in 1856: "He would be a bad Irishman who voted for principles which jeopardized the present freedom of a nation of white men, for the vague forlorn hope of elevation blacks to a level for which it is at least problematical whether God and nature ever intended them."

However, on the outbreak of the Civil War general and estimated 170,000 men born in Ireland joined the Union Army, whereas only 40,000 were in the Confederate Army. One Irish immigrant. Thomas Meagher, became a highly successful general in the war.

After the Civil War some cities in the United States such as New York, Chicago and Boston, over a quarter of the population had been born in Ireland.

Continued PG2

AZNG Diversity

Maj Tim Tucker



March Already!? Wow. Things are really moving now, and National Guard is making some exciting decisions to embrace Diversity. There has been a recent ‘Policy on Diversity’ dispersed Guard Wide, and was signed by the Guard Leadership. This ties extremely well with what Arizona has already accomplished, our AZ Policy and our AZ Diversity Strategic Plan. Be on the lookout for even more to come from Bureau, and from here in our state. This month we have part two of our Diversity committee meeting, and some of us will be attending the Diversity Conference in Boston. If you have interest in joining our committee, please contact me at 602-629-4806, or tim.tucker3@us.army.mil.

St. Patrick's Battalion

Days of March

- March 1
- National Horse Protection Day
- Peace Corp Birthday
- March 2
- Dr. Seuss Day
- NEA's Read Across America Day
- Namesake Day
- March 3
- I want you to be Happy Day
- National Anthem Day
- March 4
- Courageous Follower Day
- Employee Appreciation Day
- Old Inauguration Day
- Toy Soldier Day
- March5
- Potty Dance Day
- Saint Piran's Day
- USA Memory Day
- March 6
- U.S. Snowshoe Day
- March 7
- Casimir Pulaski Day
- Daughters' and Sons' Day
- National Be heard Day
- March 8
- Women's Rights & International Peace
- International Pancake Day (IHOP)
- Mardi Gras
- Unique Names Day
- March 9
- Ash Wednesday
- Get over it Day
- Lent Begins
- Learn what your name means Day
- March 10
- Nametag Day
- Salvation Army Day
- World Kidney Day
- March 11
- Middle Name Pride Day
- Johnny Appleseed Day
- March 12
- Genealogy Day
- Girl Scout Day
- March 13
- Donald Duck Day
- Good Samaritan Involvement Day
- K-9 Veterans Day
- Daylight Savings Begin
- International Ask a question day
- March 14
- Potato Chip Day
- Mother Day
- Pi Day, as in Math
- March 15
- Napping Day
- World Consumer Rights Day
- True Confessions Day
- March 16
- Freedom of information Day
- Goddard Day
- Lips appreciation Day
- St. Urho's Day
- Well-Elderly Day

Dubious about why they were fighting a Catholic country and fed up with mistreatment by their Anglo-Protestant officers, hundreds of Irish, German and other immigrants deserted Taylor's army and joined forces with Mexico.

Led by Capt. John Riley of Co. Galway, they called themselves the St. Patrick's Battalion (San Patricios) and fought against their former comrades in all the major campaigns of the war. The history of the San Patricios is a woeful tale of angry, bewildered, naïve, or calculating young men, from varied backgrounds, who deserted for a myriad of reasons and paid a fearful price. The San Patricios, in the words of one Mexican General, "deserved the highest praise, because they fought with daring bravery." Eventually, Mexico surrendered, ceding almost half its territory to the United States.

Each San Patricio who deserted from the US side was interned after the war in Mexico and subsequently given an individual court-martial trial. Many of the Irish were set free, but some paid the ultimate price. Roughly half of the San Patricio defectors who were executed by the US for desertion were Irish.

There are ceremonies there twice a year, on September 12 which is the anniversary of the executions, and on Saint Patrick's day. It also clarifies the reasons for the war, and the active participation of immigrant people (most notably Irish but also Scots and Germans) who joined the Mexican side and paid for that decision with their lives.

The Saint Patrick's Battalion in the US-Mexican War, has place the Irish as revered race in Mexico; even to this day, an Irish person in Mexico will be told a countless number of times about the famous 'Irish Martyrs' who defected from the US Army and gave their lives trying to save Mexico from US aggression from 1846-1848.

A main reason for their hero status in Mexico is derived from their exemplary performance in the battlefield. The San Patricios ultimately suffered severe casualties at the famous battle at Churubusco, which is considered the Waterloo for the Mexican Army in this war. Mexican President Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, who also commanded the armed forces, stated afterwards that if he had commanded a few hundred more men like the San Patricios, Mexico would have won that ill-famed battle.

The importance of these Irish renegades has not waned in Mexico over the years. In 1959, the Mexican government dedicated a commemorative plaque to the San Patricios across from San Jacinto Plaza in the Mexico City suburb of San Angel; it lists the names of all members of the battalion who lost their lives fighting for Mexico, either in battle or by execution.

A major celebration was held there in 1983, when the Mexican government authorized a special commemorative medallion honoring the San Patri-cios. First there was a special mass at a nearby parish, then school children placed floral wreaths at the plaque; the Mexico City Symphony played the national anthems of both Mexico and Ireland; Mexican officials eulogized the Irish Martyrs, and a few words were spoken by Irish Ambassador Tadgh O'Sullivan. Beginning in 1993, the Irish began their own annual ceremony in Clifden, Co. Galway, John Riley's hometown.

While the brave soldiers of Saint Patrick's Battalion are not particularly well-known outside Mexico, it is clear that their god-like status in Mexico is enough to compensate for the attention they failed to receive in other countries. There is still a fond memory of "Los Colorados" the red-headed Irish-men who gave their lives in the struggle for Mexican sovereignty.

There are Irish Names in prominent places– if you can recognize them. There's "O'Brien City," for instance, better known as Ciudad Obregon in the northern state of Sonora. Alvaro Obregon (1880-1928) was a famous and admired Mexican soldier and statesman.Today few towns in Mexico are without a street by the name. O'Brien became the Spanish "Obregon," just like O'Dunn and McMurphy are changed to American-English "Dunn" and "Murphy." Sainte mait cuzat! (Irish for "Good health to you.")

The story of the San Patricios has already been given the film treatment by Mark Day of California and it was shown on RTE earlier this year. However it has also attracted the attention of Bill McDonald, producer of Silver, and he has shot a new version in Durango in Mexico, with Tom Ber-enger in the lead role as Sergeant Riley from Clifden!

More extraordinary again is that Prince Albert de Monaco, son of Princess Grace, appears as a member of the San Patricios' famed artillery crew, "James Kelly". Actor Mark Thomas, close friend of Prince Albert's, had a role and involved the prince in the production since he was interested in the San Patricio story and in trying his hand at acting.

"One Man's Hero" a film of the San Patricio Battalion (a Paramount Release) can now be rented at Blockbuster. It white washes the injustices of the US army against the Mexican civilian population and the burning of churches but at least acknowledges the event in history. Finally Hollywood tackles the US-Mexican War with dignity.

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade"
~Charles Dickens~



Arizona
Events Calendar Day
by Day!
Click on Link
[http://emol.org/arizona/
events/2011/march.html](http://emol.org/arizona/events/2011/march.html)



Three signs of the lucky man-
diligence, early rising, and good fences.



Irish American Heritage Continued...

It was now possible Irish voters were able to get their candidates elected to power. Irish mayors such as Richard Croker of New York and James Curley in Boston were accused of corruption by investigative journalist such as Ray Stannard Baker and Lincoln Steffens.

However, as the historian Carl Wittke has pointed out: 'Reformers have often overlooked the fact that the same political boss who bought votes, stuffed ballot boxes, and brazenly perpetuated naturalization frauds was also the warmhearted leader who got the immigrant this pushcart license, 'fixed' arrests for petty violations of the law with the police and the judge, and sent the poor their Christmas turkeys and coal in winter, paid their rent when the landlord threatened eviction, and sent flowers to their funerals.'

Several Irish settlers became successful businessmen. Michael Cudahy started a highly profitable meat-packing business in Milwaukee, John Downey made a fortune in real estate as well as being governor of California (1861-62) and William Grace ran a steamship company before becoming mayor of New York City (1880-88). Second-generation businessmen included James Phelan (banking) and mayor of San Francisco (1896-1902), Thomas Ryan (financier), Franklin Gowen (railroads and coalmines), John Francis Fitzgerald (investment banker) and mayor of Boston (1906-08,1910-14) and Patrick Joseph Kennedy (wind and spirit impetrator).

In 1890 there were large numbers of Irish born immigrants in the states of New York (483,000), Massachusetts (260,000), Illinois (124,000) and Minnesota (28,000). There were also significant communities in New York City (190,000), Chicago (70,000), Baltimore (13,000) and the textile town of Lawrence (8,000).

During the period 1820 and 1920 over 4,400,000 people emigrated from Ireland to the United States. Only Germany (5,500,000) and Italy (4,190,000) came anywhere near these figures. In 1840 Ireland had been the most densely populated country in Europe. By the 20th century this situation had been completely reversed.

An investigation carried out in 1978 revealed that since 1820 over 4,723,000 people emigrated to the united States from Ireland. This amounted to 9.7 per-cent of the total foreign immigration during this period.



TRIVIA IRELAND

Fun Fact

The tune of "The Star Spangled Banner" was composed by the great blind Harper Turlough O'Carolan, who died about 35 years before the American Revolution



"It is easy to be pleasant when life flows by like a song, but the man worth while is the one who will smiles when everything goes dead wrong. For the test of the heart is trouble, and it always comes with years, and the smile that is worth the praises of earth is the smile that shines through the tears."

March Days continued...

- March 17
Absolutely Incredible Kid Day
Campfire girls Day
St. Patricks Day
- March 18
Awkward Moments Day
Forgive mom and dad day
National Biodiesel Day
- March 19
Corn Dog Day
National Chocolate Caramel Day
National Quilting Day
Operation Iraqi Freedom Day
- March 20
Atheist Pride Day
Bed-in For Peace Day
Kiss your Fiance Day
Proposal Day
National Agriculture Day
- March 21
Memory Day
National Common Courtesy Day
World Down Syndrome Day
- March 22
American Diabetes Association
Alert Day
As young as you feel day
World Water Day
- March 23
National Puppy Day
OK Day
World Meteorological Day
- March 24
National Chocolate covered raisins
Day
World tuberculosis day
- March 25
National Day of Celebration of
Greek & American
Pecan Day
Slave Trade
- March 26
Make up your own holiday day
Earth Hour
- March 27
Education and Sharing Day
- March 28
Knights of Columbus founders Day
- March 29
Texas loves the Children Day
- March 30
Doctors Day
Pencil Day
- March 31
Bunsen Burner Day
National “she’s funny that way”
day



1. In which decade of the 19th century did the Potato Famine occur in Ireland?

A. 1830s
B. 1860s
C. 1850s
D. 1840s
2. Which city in Ireland has the nickname The Maiden City?

A. Belfast
B. Derry
C. Cork
D. Galway
3. What famous Hollywood symbol was designed by Dublin native Cedric Gibbons?

A. The Hollywood Sign
B. Grauman's Chinese Theatre
C. The Oscar Statuette
D. The Hollywood Walk of Fame
4. What could couples legally do on St. Brigid's Day (February 1st) in Teltown, County Meath as recently as the 1920s by simply walking towards each other?

A. Get Married
B. Kiss a stranger in public
C. smack each other across the face
D. Sell their house to another person
5. What is the national symbol of Ireland?

A. Celtic Harp
B. Shamrock
C. Bagpipes
D. Potato
6. Which Irish Scientist was the first to correctly explain why the sky is blue?

A. George Boole
B. John Tyndall
C. Robert Boyle
D. Francis Beaufort
7. What is shillelagh?

A. An Irish ballad
B. A walking stick
C. A magical coin
D. None of the above
8. Dublin was originally called_____ which means 'Black Pool'.

A. Níl fhios agam
B. mean-aosta
C. Tá brón orm
D. Dubh Linn
9. Celtic rock group the Pogues were originally called_____, which means 'kiss my a**'

A. Sláinte
B. Ciao
C. Cheerio
D. Pogue Mahone
10. This Irish-American was responsible for construction of tele-graph lines from the Nebraska Territory to Salt Lake City

A. Edward A. Creighton
B. Patrick Healy
C. Paul David Hewson
D. William Henry McCarty
11. Kissing the Blarney Stone is supposed to do what for?

A. Give good luck in love
B. make you rich
C. Gift of Persuasive Eloquence
D. Remove shyness
12. Medieval laws in Ireland allowed a man to divorce his wife if she damaged his honor through infidelity, thieving or _____?

A. forgetting his beer
B. making a mess of everything
C. burning his dinner
D. being barren

Answers on page 4

The Leprechaun

The original leprechaun was not the top-hat wearing, pipe-smoking, green clad spirit of modern day. The legend of the leprechaun's states that these fairies hail from Ireland, where they make shoes and wreak havoc on unsuspecting humans. The group's namesake is purported to have arisen from the Irish term "leath bhrogan," meaning shoemaker. Other theorists believe the word comes from the term "luacharma'n," which means pygmy. And yet some say the mythical figures are named after the Euro-Celtic god named Lugh, pronounced "Luck". Spotting a leprechaun does indeed bring good luck, according to legend, but it's not an easy task. The sound of the fairy's shoe hammer is purported to lead one to an elusive pot of gold, but the mischievous creatures will cunningly try to entice humans with riches, only to snatch it away in an act of trickery. The fairies guard the treasure believed to have been buried by the Danes who once conquered Ireland. To see and follow the merry mischief-maker is no small task, as they are known to vanish before humans may spot them. When they are not making shoes or guarding treasure, the tiny green figures are known to be merry-makers who drink, dance, and play music.



The Season of Lent

Lent

Theme:
Retreating Into the Wilderness with Jesus

Dates:
Lent is a forty-day period before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the day before Easter Day. We skip Sundays when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. In the Roman Catholic Church, Lent officially ends at sundown on Holy Thursday, with the beginning of the mass of the Lord’s Supper.

Colors:
In most churches, the decorations are purple or blue, royal colors to prepare for the King.

The East:
In Orthodox churches, this season is called the Great Lent. It begins on Clean Monday.

Special Days:
Ash Wednesday
The Annunciation, 25 March

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus’ withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. All churches that have a continuous history extending before AD 1500 observe Lent. The ancient church that wrote, collected, canonized, and propagated the New Testament also observed Lent, believing it to be a commandment from the apostles. (See *The Apostolic Constitutions*, Book V, Section III.) Fasting is a spiritual discipline that does not involve starvation or dehydration. Quite often, our bodily appetites control our actions. The purpose of fasting is to make your bodily appetites your servant rather than your master.

The Western Church
Because Sunday is the day of the Resurrection, we skip over Sundays when we calculate the length of Lent. Therefore, in the Western Church, Lent always begins on Ash Wednesday, the seventh Wednesday before Easter. In many countries, the last day before Lent (called Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, Carnival, or Fasching) has become a last fling before the solemnity of Lent. For centuries, it was customary to fast by abstaining from meat during Lent, which is why some people call the festival *Carnival*, which is Latin for *farewell to meat*.

The Eastern Church
The Eastern Church does not skip over Sundays when calculating the length of the Great Lent. Therefore, the Great Lent always begins on Clean Monday, the seventh Monday before Easter, and ends on the Friday before Palm Sunday—using of course the eastern date for Easter. The Lenten fast is relaxed on the weekends in honor of the Sabbath (Saturday) and the Resurrection (Sunday). The Great Lent is followed by Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, which are feast days, then the Lenten fast resumes on Monday of Holy Week. Technically, in the Eastern Church, Holy Week is a separate season from the Great Lent.

Special Days
The purpose of the liturgical calendar is to relive the major events in Jesus’ life in real time, which is why Lent is forty days long. If Jesus were born on 25 December, then His conception would have been nine months earlier, on about 25 March. That is when the angel Gabriel would have announced Jesus’ birth to Mary. Thus 25 March is known in the historic church as *The Annunciation. Roughly speaking, the Western Church consists of Protestants, Catholics, and Anglicans. The Eastern Church consists of the Eastern Orthodox churches, the Oriental Orthodox churches, and the eastern-rite churches affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church*

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Employee Assistance Program Coordinators

SMSgt Ronald Silva	161 st ARW, Phoenix	602-302-9299	ronald.silva@ang.af.mil
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Federal Women’s Program Managers

CW3 Latny L. Salt	WAATS	520-750-5647	latny.l.salt@us.army.mil
SFC Tonya F. Fitzpatrick	WAATS	520-750-5569	tonya.fitzpatrick@us.army.mil
SSgt Jessica Munoz 1	62 nd , Tucson	520-576-3345	jessica.munoz@ang.af.mil

Hispanic Employment Program Managers

CPT Patrick Camunez	Attorney Advisor	602-267-2588	patrick.camunez@us.army.mil
CMSgt Carlos Trujillo	161 st ARW, Phoenix	602-302-9031	carlos.trujillo@ang.af.mil
TSgt Joseph Ferreira	162 nd FW Tucson	844-295-6662	joseph.ferrera@ang.af.mil
TSgt David Aranda	162 nd FW Tucson	DSN 844-6443	david.aranda@ang.af.mil

African American Employment Program Managers

TSgt Gayla Beasley	107 th ACS, Phoenix	623-856-2599	gayla.beasley@luke.af.mil
--------------------	--------------------------------	--------------	--

Native American Employment Program Managers

SFC Marilyn Vervae	CSMS, Phoenix	602-267-2635	marilyn.vervae@us.army.mil
SGT Adelbert Johnson	WAATS	520-616-5682	adelbert.johnson@us.army.mil

Asian American Employment Program Manager

Capt. Cheryl L. Shewbert	161 st FSS/ARW, Phoenix	602-302-9131	CherylL.Shewbert@ang.af.mil
--------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------	--

Disability Program Manager

CPT Patrick Camunez	Attorney Advisor	602-267-2588	patrick.camunez@us.army.mil
MSG Rudy Soto	CSMS, Phoenix	602-267-2635	rudy.v.soto@us.army.mil
TSgt Joseph Ferreira	162 nd Tucson	844-295-6662	joseph.ferrera@ang.af.mil

Equal Opportunity Advisor

MSG Michelle Chiapputi	JFHQ	623-760-3012	michelle.chiapputi@us.army.mil
SFC Tonya F. Fitzpatrick	WAATS	520-750-5569	tonya.fitzpatrick@us.army.mil
SFC John Tillis	Camp Navajo	928-773-3152	john.tillis@us.army.mil

Equal Opportunity Directors

Lt. Brian Wiscombe	Air/Phoenix	602-302-9142	brian.wiscombe@ang.af.mil
Maj. Sandra Wilson	Air/Tucson	520-295-6671	sandra.wilson@ang.af.mil

EEO Counselors

Maj. Kellie Adolf	HRO, Phoenix	602-629-4807	kellie.adolf@us.army.mil
SGT Chanelle Jasso	HRO, Phoenix	602-629-4811	chanelle.jasso@us.army.mil
SFC Tonya F. Fitzpatrick	WAATS	520-750-5569	tonya.fitzpatrick@us.army.mil
MSgt Tim Cervantez	JFHQ	DSN 853-2756	timothy.b.cervantez@us.army.mil
SFC John Tillis	Camp Navajo	928-773-3152	john.tillis@us.army.mil
SMSgt DeAndre Conley	161 st ARW	602-302-9229	deandre.conley@ang.af.mil
Lt. Col Allen Kinnison	162 nd FW	520-295-6030	al.kinnison@ang.af.mil
Maj Sandra Wilson	162 nd FW	520-295-6671	sandra.wilson@ang.af.mil
SMSgt Miguel A. Islas	162 nd FW	520-295-7031	miguel.islas@ang.af.mil
MSgt Melissa, Gonzalez	162 nd FW	DSN-844-6030	melissa.gonzalez@ang.af.mil
MSgt Kimberly Alterman	162 nd FW	520-295-6158	kimberly.alterman@ang.af.mil
SMSgt Jacinta Figueroa	162 nd FW	DSN 844-6880	jacfig3765@gmail.com
SMSgt Sandra G. Ahern	162 nd FW	DSN 844-6013	sandra.ahern@ang.af.mil
TSgt Amie P. Neighbors	162 nd FW	520-295-7005	amie.neighbors@ang.af.mil

MAJ Tim Tucker, State Diversity Coordinator 602-629-4806
tim.tucker3@us.army.mil

CMSgt Kristin Bronson, State Equal Employment Manager (SEEM) 602-629-4836
kristin.bronson@us.army.mil

SGT Chanelle Jasso, State Equal Employment Specialist 602-629-4811
chanelle.jasso@ng.army.mil